



Paper No. 15

LOUIS P HERZBERG
IBM CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPARTMENT
P O BOX 218
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598

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In re Application of
Pravin Bhagwat et al
Application No. 09/240,374
Filed: January 29, 1999
Attorney Docket No. YO999-014

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed July 20, 2005, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 in a timely manner to the final Office action mailed July 2, 2002, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on October 3, 2002.

The petition satisfies the conditions for revival pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that (1) the reply in the form of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE); (2) the petition fee; and (3) the required statement of unintentional delay have been received. Accordingly, the reply to the final Office action of July 2, 2002 is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

The above-identified application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting the statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178; 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109) (applicant obligated under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the Patent and Trademark Office).

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable

inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the instant petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the instant petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address of currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. See In re Application of S., 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Accordingly, since the \$1,970 extension of time submitted on March 25, 2003 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, this fee is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account No. 50-0510.

The second RCE fee of \$790 submitted with the instant petition is unnecessary and will be credited to the same deposit account as noted above.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Wan Laymon at (571) 272-3220.

This file is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 2663.


Wan Laymon

Petitions Examiner

Office of Petitions

Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

cc: ERIC PETRASKE
68 OLD HAWLEYVILLE RD
BETHEL, CT 06801